

John Knowles – Eastham Land Records 1650 - 1745

John Knowles, son of John Knowles, was born in Eastham about 1673. His father, John, was slain by the Indians near Taunton in 1675 in the King Philip War. His grandfather was Richard Knowles who was an early settler in Eastham. John died in 1757 in his 85th year and his wife Mary died in 1745 in her 73d year. Both John and Mary have gravestones in Eastham Cove Burying Ground.

1675

John Knowles purchased from Benniah Dunham upland and broken marsh ground. PDF A216

Granted to John Knowles one and one-half acres of upland on the southerly side of the Cedar swamp near his house. Bounds were indicated by marked oak trees. PDF A217, M22, S46.

1693

Land owned by John Knowles which formerly belonged to Benniah Dunham at the head of Town Cove was exchanged for more of the Common land that was at the other end of Knowles land near the head of Town Cove. This exchange of land was to make room for a highway. PDF M23.

1703

Granted to John Knowles, Thomas Doane and Constant Freeman a parcel of meadow on the Middle Flat of the Town Flats about 104 pole by six pole or about four acres. The parcel was next to land of Samuel Treat, Samuel Paine and Thomas Smith. PDF A279, M167.

1711

Granted to John Knowles about four acres at Little Skaket Neck on the northern side of the Cedar Swamp. Bounds were indicated by marked trees. PDF T71.

Granted to John Knowles about four acres of land for his plain lot next to the cartway. Bounds were indicated by marked stones. PDF T71.

Granted to John Knowles about six acres for his wood lot. It was near the dwelling house of Samuel Doane and next to the wood lot of Ichabod Higgins. PDF T71.

Land at Great Island was divided into twenty-four equal sized lots. Lot ten was granted to John Knowles, Daniel Cole, Richard Higgins, Ichabod Higgins and Samuel Freeman Jr. Each lot was about six and one-half acres. PDF T88.

1715

The Proprietors appointed John Knowles, Nathaniel Mayo, John Cole, Jonathan Linnell and Jonathan Young to a committee to identify the upland, meadow and swamps suitable for division. The committee was to lay out the land into shares or allotments as plain lots and wood lots. PDF T192.

The Proprietors appointed another committee to determine who was to receive each plain lot based on the committee's best discretion and sound judgment. This committee consisted of John Knowles, Joseph Doane, John Cole, Samuel Freeman, Thomas Doane and Jonathan Higgins. The committee registered with the Town Clerk a list of lot numbers, lot descriptions and proposed owners. PDF T192.

The 120th plain lot grant was to John Knowles. His grant consisted of three parcels. The first parcel was five acres next to land of Thomas Smith near the mouth of Rock Harbor. Bounds were indicated by marked stones. Gates were required to allow carts to conveniently pass. The second parcel was a strip of about eight acres next to land of Isaac Higgins. Bounds were indicated by marked trees. The third parcel was about one acre next to lots of James Brown and William Brown on the southerly side of Indian Brook. PDF T245, T248.

Granted to John Knowles the twenty-first wood lot. It ran north about 265 feet on the east side of the way to Billingsgate. It ran east to the backside sea probably one mile like the adjoining lots for an area of about thirty-two acres. PDF T268.

Granted to John Knowles the seventy-fifth wood lot. It was located at Pochet on the southwesterly side of the wood lot of Maziah Harding and next to the meadow of John Cole. The Knowles wood lot was about seventeen acres. PDF T281.

John Knowles and Jabez Snow purchased for one pound paid to the agents for the Proprietors one-half acre near Long Swamp and Skiff Hill with land of Samuel Treat on the south and west and land of Jabez Snow on the north. PDF T309.

1717

John Knowles purchased for two pounds paid to the agents for the Proprietors one acre near his house at Pochet and next to land of Israel Doane and Micaiah Snow. PDF T312.

John Knowles purchased for _ shillings paid to the agents for the Proprietors one-half acre at Pochet next to other Knowles land and next to land of Micaiah Snow. PDF T 314.

The land owned by John Knowles described in these records amounts to about eighty-four acres. Up to 1745 thirty-three more Knowles received Eastham land grants.